

Minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting September 25, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:44 PM.

Attending Committee Members were: Soraya Stevens, AnnaLisa Madison, Margot Fleishman, and Dan Silverman

Guests: Roy Sorensen

- Reviewed meeting minutes. Minutes accepted unanimously.

Roy Sorensen gave an update on DPW activities:

- North Road sidewalk should get done this year – contractor was in today. Will start removing the existing ground and get paving this year. The remaining Pine Hill stretch will be next year.
- Hemlock Lane – the selectmen went on record as preferring the less expensive option. Roy wants to meet with the residents again to go over the plan. So they will look again at Hemlock next year.
- Concord Road – DPW and NE Nurseries held a meeting to hear NE Nurseries concerns with the project. Their main concern was the entryway to their business and the sidewalk area. They were worried about the trees and sign – MF noted the trees and signs are in the public right of way. Adrian put together a plan to incorporate their concerns. Bring the sidewalk out to the road and put in granite curbing. The plan requires almost 900 linear ft of curbing. It will raise the cost but it is worth the investment. The curbing will formalize the entryway. MF: did anyone ask about the trucks entering in on the Hartwell Ave?
 - DPW will present the proposed plan to NE Nurseries. The sidewalk could ultimately be linked to the Hartwell Rd bike path and Caesar Jones. The Caesar Jones sidewalk should be first. The Hartwell Rd piece will wait until the full paving job gets done – the recent repaving job was just a temporary improvement.
 - The crossing at Ten Acre could be a good spot for a crosswalk.
 - How much space will be left over for bikes. The edge of road is where the curbing will be placed. It will not be taking any pavement away. It will increase the cost by \$47,564 (estimate) for the curbing. Hartwell might have granite curbing. There is a lack of agreement.

- Nov 5 2012 memo has a recommendation consider the section of concord Rd between Caesar Jones and Hardy Rd.
- Community Preservation meeting – looking at the funding in sidewalk account. There is approximately 490K. The sidewalk funding for Concord, North Rd, and Hemlock look good.
- Putting together a 6-year capital plan. First year is 2016. For the last 3 years, they are going to put in 200K for sidewalks. They want some money for Springs Road, but in the past it was turned down. Because the Springs Road exists and is non ADA compliant, there is some question as to whether or not the sidewalk qualifies. We aren't looking at the cost of repair and rehabilitation in our capital cost estimates. The appropriations from CPA are for new sidewalks and not existing sidewalks.
- Where is the Davis Road sidewalk/boardwalk idea? Adrian has had Kristen Dowdy (env engineer) looking at options.
- Bob had mentioned that there was interest in a Carlisle Road as well.
- Roy is looking for some input from TAC on prioritization. Davis Road would be a significant effort. Engaging planning and construction – the planning will take a long time.
- Some near term priorities:
 - Final connection on Pine Hill is low-hanging fruit.
 - Design for Davis Road
 - South Road – Depot Park to Liberty
- TAC will have a subsequent meeting to come up with proposed sidewalk priorities.
- Requesting a right-of-way map from Hartwell Ave to Liberty
- We need to review the 2000 segment list. MF will email the segment list.
- School Way improvements are going well.
- Railroad Ave. – Trish from VHB will come in and sit down and take a look at what they have before Oct 20th meeting.
- Minuteman Trail repaving is done. Just need a little side work left.

- Safe Routes To School – is in the queue for TIP funding. Mudge Way signalization and improvements all the way through to the middle school. Pending FY16 (Transportation Improvement Plan) funding.
- MF: In there are areas where there are sidewalk next to open space, what do you do about poison ivy or vegetation control?
 - Right now it is just managed on a case by case basis. There is no vegetation plan for managing poison ivy near sidewalks.
- Signage changes – is there a methodology for installing signs in a uniform way. Height of sign and placement (before or behind the crosswalk).
- MF thanks Roy and DPW for painting the crosswalks in a timely manner this year.

Selectment update:

- Nov 12th: Bike/Ped Master plan public workshop in the multipurpose room in town hall.
- Main vehicle for collecting information is going to be via a wikimap. Approximately 6 weeks of data collection. Launch in Oct-beginning of Nov, then close it around Thanksgiving. TAC can give input to steering committee if desired. There is another steering committee meeting in October. Orchard/Springs stretch. Page Road sidewalk connecting sidewalk and Wedgewood sidewalk.
- One of the selectmen's goals was to shine some light on cut-through neighborhoods. We haven't come up with a plan or toolkit to deal with cut-through traffic. Hemlock, Hill, Weber, Hartford/Bacon. We need more traffic enforcement. Identify the cut-through locations and see what we can do to work with the police to come up with recommendations. Some of those cut-through neighborhoods need to have options – either sidewalks with curbs or lower speed limits.

Planning Board update:

- Two articles on the warrant. There is one the industrial mixed use bylaw. There may be some transportation litigation.
- For next meeting, we should think about a recommendation for a warrant for the town meeting.

Actions for next meeting:

- For next meeting, review the list of sidewalks and give top 5 for discussion next week.
- Soraya and Dan to survey existing documents to compile a list of strategies to manage cut-through traffic through neighborhoods.

Meeting adjourned 9:39pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Soraya Stevens